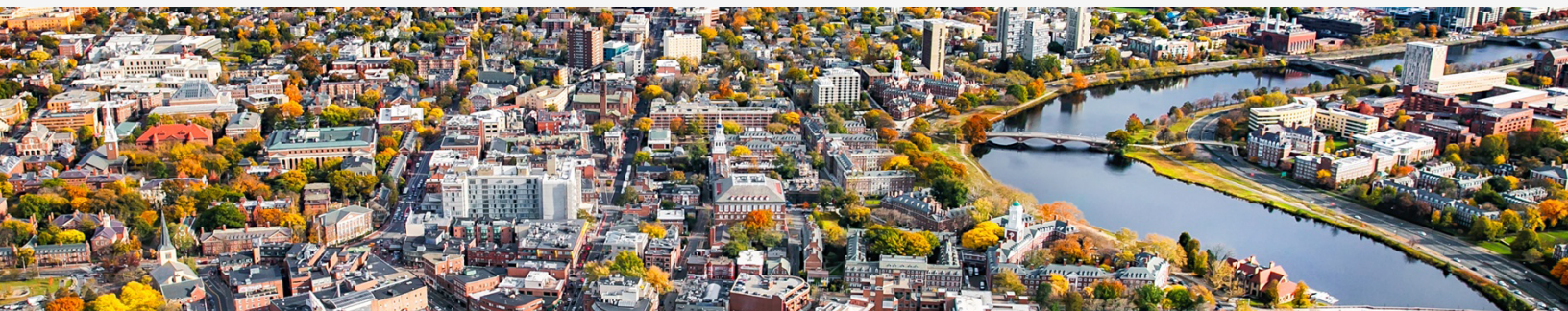


YOUR GUIDE TO THE CAMBRIDGE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE



WHAT IS THE CHARTER?

The Cambridge City Charter is the City's constitution. It defines Cambridge's government structure, powers and functions. In Cambridge, the Charter explains the powers of the City Council, City Manager, and School Committee. It outlines other aspects of government, from how elections are run, to who creates the budget. The Cambridge Charter was first adopted by the voters in 1940. It hasn't been holistically reviewed in 80 years.

WHO IS THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE?

The City Council appointed 15 residents of Cambridge to review the City's charter. Their goal is to recommend changes to ensure Cambridge's government meets the needs of all residents and that it is responsive to the challenges of today and beyond.

HOW DOES THE CHARTER AFFECT ME?

The charter controls:

- how you are represented
- term lengths for elected officials
- who in Cambridge has certain responsibilities and powers
- if roles in government are appointed or elected
- who is responsible to whom
- the city's budget process

CURRENT FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Cambridge has a City Council / City Manager form of government.

The City Council, **legislative branch**, has 9 councilors, all elected at-large by the proportional representation process. The Council serves 2-year terms and elects a Mayor amongst themselves. The Mayor's role is like a council president and is the ceremonial figure head for the city.

The day to day operations of the city are run by the City Manager, **executive branch**, who is appointed by the City Council. The City Manager serves under a contract, and all department heads report to the manager.

The committee needs your involvement

Scan the QR code to

- subscribe to our newsletter
- submit your ideas and feedback
- stay updated on upcoming events



SCAN ME

Join our upcoming
Public Forums!

January 24th 6PM – 8PM
at the Main Cambridge Public Library

February 4th on Zoom!



<https://www.cambridgema.gov/charterreview>